

INBLOOM

Emil and Nancy Graeser Pledge
a \$225,000 Matching Grant

Welcome, Kasey Maier!

Founders' Garden Opens
at the Heigold House

Helen Burns Harrigan –
A Garden Visionary

A Quick Look at the
Missouri Botanical Garden

Plant Spotlight: Serviceberry

Thank You to our Supporters



Pictured:
The Opening
Reception of the
Founders' Garden at
the Heigold House
Façade, May 2013.

BOTANICA

OUR VISION

To create a botanical garden and conservatory of extraordinary beauty that engages, enlightens and inspires people about plants and nature.



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WaterfrontGardens.org.**

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE - FALL 2013



Dear Friends,

I hope you'll join me in celebrating Botanica's biggest achievement to date! This past June, Mayor Greg Fischer and I signed the land-use agreement between Botanica and Metro Louisville, committing the 23-acre site at Frankfort Avenue and River Road to become the future home of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens!

As every gardener knows, you need land to grow a garden, and this agreement shows the growing support among our community and its leaders to create a botanical garden near downtown Louisville. With the formal commitment of the property secured, our Board of Directors is ready to move ahead with significant investment in the site.

The next major step is to get the former landfill site approved for use. We know a lot about the property from water and soil samples taken in recent years, and we are currently conducting a comprehensive environmental analysis - the first step in determining exactly what will be involved in reclaiming the site. The analysis will identify what remains in the landfill today and what we will need to do to make it safe for construction and our future visitors.

Botanica has also started the process of selecting the project's landscape and architectural design firms. We will work with those firms over the next several months as we put together all of the design details for the Waterfront Botanical Gardens project.

We are making great progress on the botanical garden effort - and we couldn't have done it without your help. I hope you'll consider supporting Botanica with a donation. Your gift will help us take the next step toward making the Waterfront Botanical Gardens a reality!

Happy gardening,

Brian Voelker
President, Board of Directors

P.S. There's no better time to make a donation than now! Be sure to check out Emil and Nancy Graeser Pledge a \$225,000 Matching Grant on Page 3 to learn about how you can double the impact of your gift!

EMIL AND NANCY GRAESER PLEDGE A \$225,000 MATCHING GRANT

We are thrilled to share some very exciting news! Two longtime Botanica supporters, Emil and Nancy Graeser, have been so inspired by the vision of creating a botanical garden in Louisville, and so excited with the recent progress made on the project, that they have decided to give a \$225,000 matching grant to Botanica. That means that any donation to Botanica and the Waterfront Botanical Gardens effort will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$225,000!

“Emil and Nancy’s generosity is truly inspiring. It means so much to us,” said Brian Voelker, President of Botanica. “The Graesers’ gift is one of the largest in Botanica’s history. Their support at this early stage in the garden’s development will have a lasting impact on what our community can accomplish.”

Emil hopes that others in the community will join his support for the project. “We believe that Louisville should have a viable botanical garden that would be available for the education of children, the enjoyment of its citizens, the attraction of visitors and the enhancement of the city,” he said.

Here’s how it works: If an individual makes a \$250 donation, that gift will be matched by \$250 from the Graesers’ matching grant. Because of the match, the total impact of the gift is \$500.

If you’ve thought about making a donation to Botanica, there’s no better time than now. It’s a great way to double the impact of your gift – no matter the size!

To make a donation, use the giving form on Page 4 of this newsletter, call 502-276-5404 or visit us online at waterfrontgardens.org.



WELCOME, KASEY MAIER!

Botanica is pleased to announce that Kasey Maier has joined our organization as Director of Program Development. Most recently, Kasey spent three-and-a-half years with the Kentucky School of Art at Spalding University. She was a founder of the school, and served as the administrative director. Prior to that, she was in the banking and investment industry.

Kasey will be focused on program development, fundraising, community awareness, board development and more. You may contact Kasey by e-mail at kmaier@waterfrontgardens.org.

FOUNDERS' GARDEN OPENS AT THE HEIGOLD HOUSE

In May, Botanica was delighted to host the opening of the Founders' Garden at the Heigold House. The garden, located at the intersection of River Road and Frankfort Avenue, is the result of many months of planning, generous giving, excellent garden design and much collaboration with public officials. The Heigold House façade is what remains of the home built by Christopher Heigold in the neighborhood once known as the Point. The remains of the house were relocated after the neighborhood was destroyed in the devastating 1937 flood.

The design of the garden, a creation of Karen Bohannon, is a period-inspired piece. She sought to re-create a garden that would have been typical of homes such as this one at the time it was built - in the style, layout and plants selected. The Founders'

Garden is the first step in the creation of the much larger Waterfront Botanical Gardens to be built - the site for which is located immediately to the east of the Founders' Garden on the a 23-acre site that used to be the Point neighborhood, where the Heigold House and many others like it once stood.

We look forward to seeing the Founders' Garden grow and mature - much as we look forward to seeing the Waterfront Botanical Gardens become a reality! Many thanks to our garden designer, Karen Bohannon; our plant supplier, Hidden Hill Nursery and Sculpture Garden; the evening's sponsors: Sea Ray of Louisville, Sonoma-Cutrer, KORBEL California Champagne and the many individuals who made a donation to support the garden!

Help us meet the matching grant - support us today!

By making a donation, you'll be playing a critical role in helping to make the gardens a reality. All donations will be matched - dollar for dollar - up to our matching grant total of \$225,000.

MAKE A DONATION

- Online at WaterfrontGardens.org
- Mail completed form to:
Botanica
P.O. Box 5056
Louisville, KY 40255-0056

Botanica Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit organization. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Donations

- \$1,000 \$750 \$500 \$250 \$150 \$100
 Other _____

Memberships

- \$25 Individual \$35 Family \$35 Business/Organization

Total: \$ _____

Brick Inscription: For donations of \$100 and above, receive your name on a brick in the Founders' Garden. Maximum three lines of 13 characters each, including spacing and punctuation:



Name _____

Address _____

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- I have enclosed a check made payable to Botanica.
 Visa/MasterCard

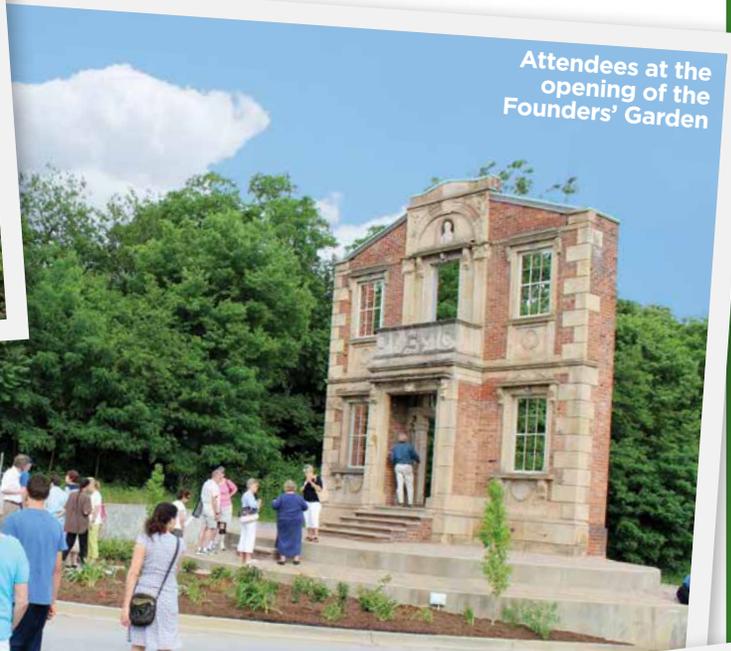
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Billboard at the entrance of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens site



Attendees at the opening of the Founders' Garden



Donor bricks along the path of the Founders' Garden



Karen Bohannon (garden designer), Brian Voelker (Botanica Board President) and Kathy Fergie Yerrid (Botanica Board member)



Councilwoman Tina Ward Pugh



A big thanks to event sponsors Brown-Forman Corp. and Sea Ray of Louisville

HELEN BURNS HARRIGAN – A GARDEN VISIONARY

BY ALEX LUKEN

There was nothing in Helen Harrigan's early life to indicate that she would one day become the guiding star in the development of a botanical garden in downtown Louisville. A passionate gardener and self-taught horticulturalist, Helen grew up as an only child in the Barret Avenue area of Louisville, in a household headed by her widowed grandmother, Mary Gretz; her mother, Elizabeth Gretz Burns; and her mother's unmarried siblings. As in most working-class families, everyone worked and contributed to the family income. Census records and city directories from 1920 to 1940 list Elizabeth Burns Gretz's occupation as a cigar maker for a local tobacconist, first at a firm known as Felix Colben's, and later for the Reiss Dabney Cigar Co.

In the mid-1930's, Helen married Edward Curtis Harrigan Jr., the only child of Edward Curtis Harrigan Sr. and Cecilia Baynes. The 1940 census lists the couple as living in Cincinnati, where Edward was employed by an auto-body shop. Edward had one son by a prior marriage, but the couple never had additional children. Following their return to Louisville in the mid-1940s, the couple purchased a 20-acre farm on the Outer Loop. Edward began work at Philip Morris, where he served as a maintenance engineer until his retirement. A quiet, solitary man, he was considered mechanically talented, and solved many operational issues.

On the farm, Helen became passionate about gardening – first roses, then daylilies. With room to spread her garden out, she planted 100-foot-long beds of daylilies, and began experimenting with the hybridization of daylilies. Although she never registered or introduced any, she continued to grow her own hybridized daylilies until just prior to her death in 1999. The Harrigans lived on their Outer Loop farm until 1974, when they sold the property for the development of Jefferson Mall, and moved to a charming Colonial-style home in the Belmar neighborhood, with an extra-wide lot for her garden beds. She continued her hybridization beds at their new home, where Edward built an oversized misting tent in the backyard. Her iris beds included over 200 varieties, mostly tall bearded and Siberian.

Serious gardeners who knew Helen speak about her passion and depth of knowledge about gardening,



and her willingness to share plants with fellow garden club members. A self-taught botanist, she immersed herself in her passion, and had an extensive personal library about plants and hybridization. Following the death of her husband in 1978, her life revolved around garden clubs and the numerous plant societies to which she belonged. She belonged first to the Belmar Garden Club, and following its disbandment, to the Beechmont Garden Club. When her garden club required members to learn the art of flower arranging, she did so with the same passion that she approached hybridization techniques – for which she became known.

Helen Harrigan was a well-known figure not only in local gardening circles, but also in state and regional circles. In addition to her membership in the Belmar and Beechmont garden clubs, she was a member of the Flower Arrangers' Guild, the Rose Society, the American Hemerocallis Society, the American Iris Society and the Louisville-Area Iris Society. She exhibited plants and floral arrangements at area garden club and plant society shows, the Louisville Home, Garden & Remodeling Show and the Kentucky State Fair. She served as an officer in various capacities in the organizations to which she belonged.

A tireless volunteer, she helped maintain the Rose Society beds at the state fairgrounds, and planted iris beds at the Louisville Zoo and at St. Anthony's Hospital, where volunteers operated a small greenhouse and sent new mothers home with a plant as a gift from the hospital. She also volunteered at the Kentucky Botanical Garden on Cherokee Road.

In 2006, as a remembrance of her contribution to gardening, the Louisville Area Iris Society worked with a Region 7 (Kentucky and Tennessee) iris hybridizer in Tennessee to hybridize an iris in her memory. The tall bearded Helen Harrigan iris was developed and introduced. The bloom is light-blue and silver-gray, and is a midseason bloomer. The plant is attractive to bees, butterflies and birds.

Helen was personally frugal and thrifty – sewing her own clothes, doing her own home repairs when possible and using possessions for as long as they had utility. She was physically active in the garden until the end of her life, hopping into her compost pen to turn the compost with a garden fork, turning the soil herself and hauling plants all over the county in her station wagon. No weed escaped her watchful eye as she examined her beds on a daily basis. She spared no expense on her plant and gardening needs, but paid no attention to her own personal comforts.

As she wrapped up her affairs at the end of her life, her attorney was shocked that the modest, unassuming woman had amassed a sizable estate, spread out through numerous Louisville banks. Upon her death in



July 1999, Helen left remembrances to the many garden clubs, plant societies and individuals who shared her love of gardening through the decades. Helen desired to make possible a botanical garden with space for flower and plant shows and for holding classes about plants, hybridization and training for judging plant and gardening shows. To that end, Helen left over \$1 million in trust for the establishment of a botanical garden, with Botanica as its beneficiary. Her endowment has played a significant role in Botanica's current trajectory, and is helping to make the Waterfront Botanical Gardens a possibility. Botanica's hope is that Helen's legacy will inspire many other visionaries in our community to partner with Botanica to make the

Waterfront Botanical Gardens a reality. We are thankful for Helen's generosity, and look forward to the day that we finally open the gardens that she so longed to see.

Thanks to Robert Strohman, June Richards, Judy Hunt and Dot Wade for sharing personal remembrances of Helen Harrigan. A special thanks to Robert Strohman for sharing a 1991 Louisville-Area Iris Society newsletter profile of Helen Harrigan.

PLANNED GIVING – A COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

One great way to support the Waterfront Botanical Gardens is to include Botanica in your estate plans. While there are several different approaches, one of the simplest is to make a bequest by including a gift to Botanica in your will. To see the impact that a planned gift can have, look no further than Helen Harrigan. Helen's gift set the Waterfront Botanical Gardens project in motion!

If you have any questions about planned giving, or would like to let us know that you've included Botanica in your future plans, **please contact Kasey Maier at kmaier@waterfrontgardens.org or 502-276-5404.**

WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS – NEXT STEPS

BY DOMINIC GRATTO

The last year has brought with it a great deal of progress toward the development of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens – the title search, a completed site survey, the opening of the Founders’ Garden and a signed land agreement on a 23-acre parcel on which the gardens will sit. Yes, a signed agreement! We couldn’t be more excited about this crucial step that gives us a legal right

the quality of the groundwater. Soil borings will be taken to determine the makeup of the soil and to give us a better picture of whether special foundations will have to be used to construct buildings. These aren’t glamorous steps in the overall process (unless you are a geologist), but they are very needed ones, and will help ensure the long-term success of the gardens.

Another step in which Botanica is currently engaged in is the Request for Qualifications (or RFQ) process. As part of the RFQ process, Botanica is reaching out to numerous design firms, both locally and around the country, to better understand their qualifications and interest in working on the gardens project. Interested firms will submit evidence of their qualifications, and then be reviewed as part of a process that is standard in the industry. Eventually, a select few firms will be asked to enter a final stage – the Request for Proposals process.

In the RFP stage, a select few firms will meet with the Board of Directors, and then prepare detailed proposals of their designs for the site that meet our vision for what the gardens will be.

The RFQ/RFP process is expected to take several months, and will culminate in the selection of the single design firm that will head up the overall design of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens. Many other firms will be involved in the project, including landscape architects and engineers, but the winning firm will serve as the lead for the project. We look forward to sharing more details with you about the RFQ/RFP process in the coming months.

to a piece of property on which to build the gardens that so many of you have been dreaming about for years.

While great progress has been made, there is still a great deal of work yet to be done. Botanica is pushing forward with the necessary next steps, and is currently working on a comprehensive environmental analysis of the site and starting the process of recruiting design firms to partner with us over the next several years.

The environmental analysis is our first step in reclaiming the site. Initial studies indicate that it is a perfect candidate to be reclaimed and turned into a botanical garden. Wells will be dug in the former landfill to test



Views of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens site.

WHY NOT HERE? A QUICK LOOK AT SUMMER FUN AT THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

BY PEGGY GRANT



As we travel, many of us take the opportunity to visit the breathtaking botanical gardens that dot our country's landscape. We are often left in awe of the astounding displays, beautiful plants and unique botanical treasures that we find. To encourage our imagination to soar as we plan and prepare for the opening of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens, let's look at some of the fun and exciting things we've seen at other botanical gardens. My travels recently had me in St. Louis, where I visited the Missouri Botanical Garden, and my visit left me dreaming about the day that we will have a similarly amazing garden here in our own city.

This summer, the Missouri Botanical Garden is featuring Savor Your Summer activities.

Daily activities include:

Celebrity Chef Mondays – Local chefs share culinary demonstrations, food samples, stories, tips and favorite recipes.

Herbs and Heirlooms Tuesdays – The St. Louis Herb Society teaches about different herbs, and sends participants home with an herb plant and recipe card.

Backyard Kitchen Wednesdays – Visitors taste-test three unusual plants, and learn how to grow, harvest and prepare them.

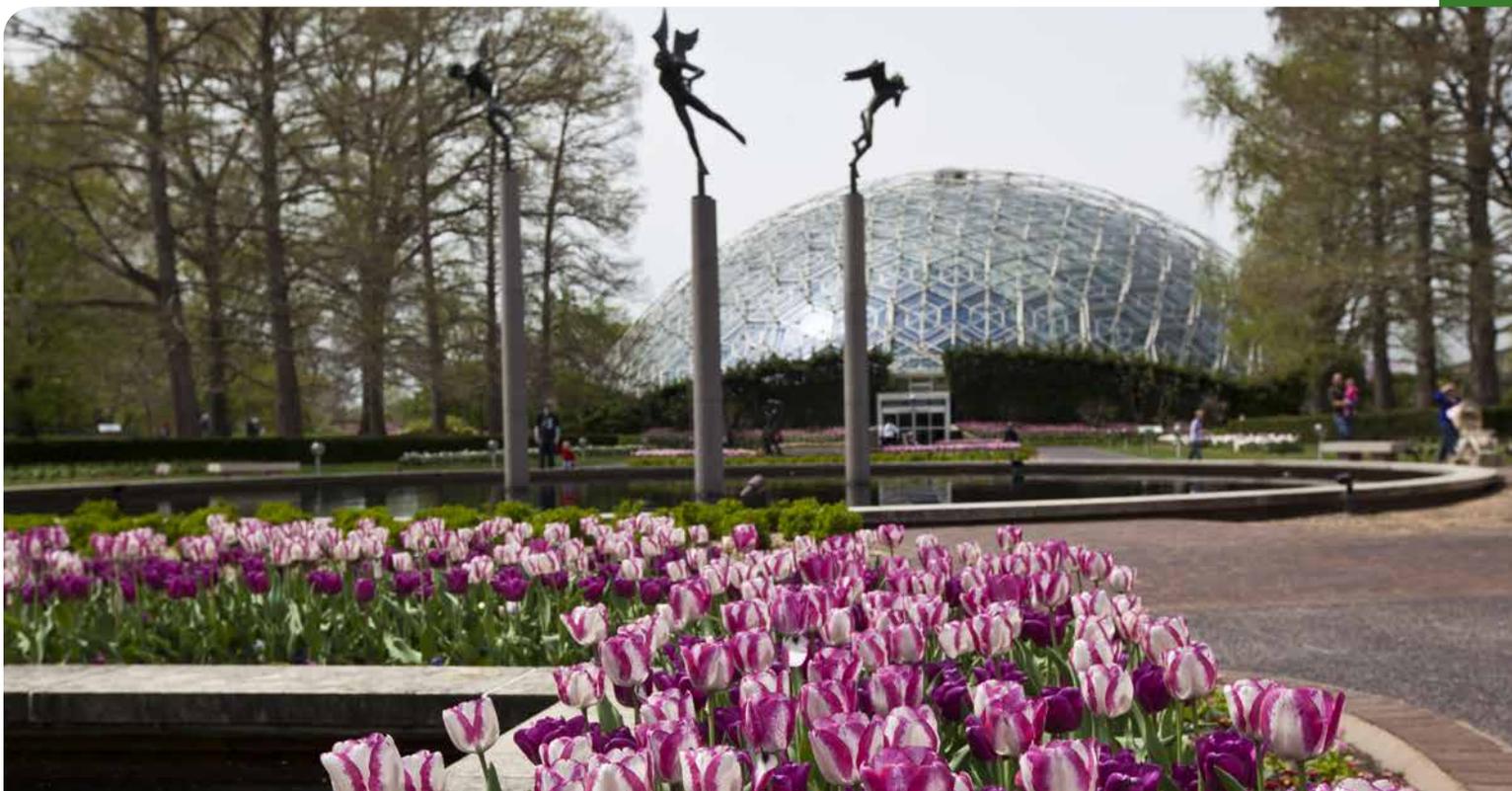
Food-for-All Thursdays – The Garden raises awareness of local hunger, and collects food donations for the St. Louis Area Food Bank, entitling visitors to free admission.

Food of Our Roots Fridays – Visitors experience some of the food plants of significance from around the world.

Family Food Saturdays – Families enjoy the Edible Garden by watering, digging in the soil, playing games or taste-testing what's growing.

Spicy Sundays – Features refreshments, concoctions and edible delights that contain common and not-so-common spices, allowing visitors to guess the secret spice, enjoy the culinary creation and take home a recipe card.

Check out all the fun at missouribotanicalgarden.org.



PLANT SPOTLIGHT: SERVICEBERRY BY BOB HILL

In the boastful world of horticulture, plants must live up to their names. The versatile, four-season serviceberry tree named Autumn Brilliance does just that! Louisville-area residents have only to pass by the Founders' Garden at the Heigold House to see the truth of its name in living color in all four seasons.

The serviceberry's Latin name, *Amelanchier x grandiflora*, only adds to its stature. One of the most enduring - if erroneous - stories about the tree is that it was named by early Appalachian settlers at a time when it was too cold to bury their dead in winter. Early spring - when the tree was in full flower - was the right time for the service. Other common names for the tree, Shadblow or Shadbush, were related to the running of the shad fish along the East Coast at a time of bloom.

The serviceberry is a great ornamental tree, especially when we all need a break from winter. In early spring, it's covered in showy white flowers. In summer, it produces bluish-green leaves on an upright plant. In early summer, the flowers give way to small, round,

green berries that turn red and then purplish-black, and can be used for jellies and jams. The birds will like them, too! The incredible fall color on the leaves is a vibrant orange-red. Winter allows the tree's light-gray bark to shine until the white flowers return in the spring.

Autumn Brilliance will get about 15 to 20 feet tall and wide, takes full sun to part shade, does well in average soil and requires normal watering. It can be grown as a single-stem tree or a bushy shrub, has no serious insect or disease problems and will make a great specimen tree or part of a shrub border.

The Autumn Brilliance serviceberry tree is growing at the Heigold House because its native ancestor was already very popular with the early settlers in the late 1800s, when the house was built. This plant might well have been a tree found in Louisville gardens 150 years ago - as it was certainly growing wild in the Eastern parts of Kentucky. Try Autumn Brilliance in your garden. There is still time to get one in the ground for its outstanding production this fall!



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Botanica would like to thank the many individuals, organizations and corporations that support our work. The list below reflects memberships and donations received from June 1, 2012, through July 31, 2013.

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FALL 2013

NEWS FOR THE FRIENDS OF BOTANICA

INBLOOM

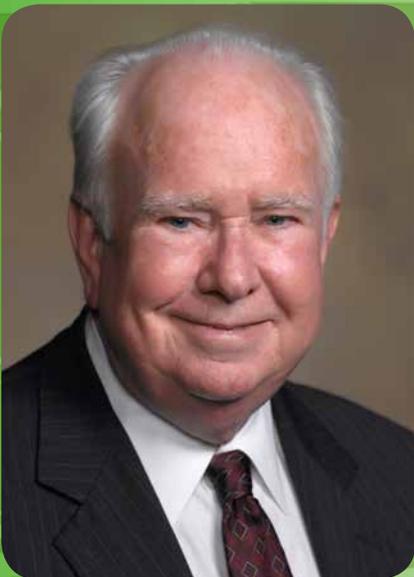
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JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKER



PETER RAVEN

Botanist, Environmentalist and President Emeritus
of the Missouri Botanical Garden

Wednesday, Oct. 23, at Locust Grove

5:30-6:30 p.m. – Cocktail reception

6:30-7:30 p.m. – Speaker program

561 Blankenbaker Lane, Louisville, KY 40207

Space is limited. Event is free for members, \$10 for nonmembers.

RSVP to 502-276-5404 or kmaier@waterfrontgardens.org.